

1-1 By: Ellis S.B. No. 984
1-2 (In the Senate - Filed March 1, 2013; March 12, 2013, read
1-3 first time and referred to Committee on Open Government;
1-4 April 11, 2013, reported adversely, with favorable Committee
1-5 Substitute by the following vote: Yeas 5, Nays 0; April 11, 2013,
1-6 sent to printer.)

1-7 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-8				
1-9	Ellis	X		
1-10	Davis	X		
1-11	Nelson	X		
1-12	Seliger	X		
1-13	Williams	X		

1-14 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR S.B. No. 984 By: Davis

1-15 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
1-16 AN ACT

1-17 relating to the meeting of a governmental body held by
1-18 videoconference call.

1-19 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-20 SECTION 1. Subsections (c), (e), (f), and (h), Section
1-21 551.127, Government Code, are amended to read as follows:

1-22 (c) A meeting of a state governmental body or a governmental
1-23 body that extends into three or more counties may be held by
1-24 videoconference call only if the member [a majority of the quorum]
1-25 of the governmental body presiding over the meeting is physically
1-26 present at one location of the meeting that is open to the public
1-27 during the open portions of the meeting.

1-28 (e) The notice of a meeting to be held by videoconference
1-29 call must specify as a location of the meeting the location where a
1-30 quorum of the governmental body will be physically present and
1-31 specify the intent to have a quorum present at that location, except
1-32 that the notice of a meeting to be held by videoconference call
1-33 under Subsection (c) must specify as a location of the meeting the
1-34 ~~[each]~~ location where the member ~~[a majority of the quorum]~~ of the
1-35 governmental body presiding over the meeting will be physically
1-36 present and specify the intent to have the member ~~[a majority of the~~
1-37 ~~quorum]~~ of the governmental body presiding over the meeting present
1-38 at that location. The location where the member of the governmental
1-39 body presiding over the meeting is physically present [In addition,
1-40 ~~the notice of the meeting must specify as a location of the meeting~~
1-41 ~~each other location where a member of the governmental body who will~~
1-42 ~~participate in the meeting will be physically present during the~~
1-43 ~~meeting. Each of the locations]~~ shall be open to the public during
1-44 the open portions of the meeting.

1-45 (f) Each portion of a meeting held by videoconference call
1-46 that is required to be open to the public shall be visible and
1-47 audible to the public at the [each] location specified under
1-48 Subsection (e). If a problem occurs that causes a meeting to no
1-49 longer be visible and audible to the public at that location, the
1-50 meeting must be recessed until the problem is resolved. If the
1-51 problem is not resolved in six hours or less, the meeting must be
1-52 adjourned.

1-53 (h) The [Each] location specified under Subsection (e), and
1-54 each remote location from which a member of the governmental body
1-55 participates, shall have two-way communication with each other
1-56 location during the entire meeting. The face of each [Each]
1-57 participant in the videoconference call, while that participant is
1-58 speaking, shall be clearly visible, and the voice audible, to each
1-59 other participant and, during the open portion of the meeting, to
1-60 the members of the public in attendance at a location of the

2-1 meeting.

2-2 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2013.

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